

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CU-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8623

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL 532

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0365

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, GH, ZA, WA, PDEV, NI

SUBJECT: KAUNDA IN LAGOS

1. I HAD UNFORTUNATELY LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE WITH KAUNDA LAST NIGHT AT BRIEF RITUAL MEETING WITH DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT STATE HOUSE. WE REMINISCED ABOUT HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON TWO YEARS AGO. EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA, WHO SHEPHERDED KAUNDA FOR BRIEF CONVERSATIONS WITH HALF A DOZEN SELECTED CHIEFS-OF-MISSION, THEN ASKED ABOUT PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT UNDER CARTER ADMINISTRATION. GARBA THEN TURNED CONVERSATION TO SPORTS, WHICH ENABLED ME TO COMMENT ON KAUNDA'S LINE-DRIVE KICK OPENING THE SOCCER MATCH AT THE
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10TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN LUSAKA TWO YEARS AGO. I TOLD GARBA WE WERE PROPOSING THAT NIGERIAN SPORTS COUNCIL HOST DENVER NUGGETS BASKETBALLERS THOMPSON AND TOWE THIS SUMMER (STATE 3831). GARBA, WHO MAINTAINS HE IS PLAYING BETTER NOW THAN WHEN HE CAPTAINED NIGERIA'S NATIONAL TEAM, SAID HE HOPED IT COULD BE WORKED OUT.

2. I ASKED FONMIN MWALE ABOUT RECENT FRONTLINE ENDORSEMENT OF PATRIOTIC FRONT. HE TOLD ME HE WAS LESS CONCERNED ABOUT FUTRUE ROLE OF MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE THAN HE WAS ABOUT SMITH'S ATTITUDE. HE FEARED SMITH WOULD NOW BE MORE STUBBORN THAN EVER. HE ADMITTED THERE WAS SOME POSSIBILITY OF MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE PACTING WITH SMITH "BUT THIS WILL DESTROY THEM IN BLACK AFRICAN EYES."

3. KAUNDA LEAVES FOR BORNU STATE TODAY WITH OVERNIGHT MAIDURGURI. HE SPENDS THURSDAY IN RIVERS STATE OVERNIGHTING IN PORT HARCOURT. RETURNING TO LAGOS FRIDAY, HE WILL GOLF WITH GAMBIAN PRESIDENT JAWARA AND NIGERIAN PARTNERS. HIS LAST OFFICIAL APPEARANCE IS ATTENDANCE AT FESTAC CEREMONIAL OPENING ON SATURDAY. MEANWHILE MWALE AND GHONA WILL HAVE VISITED US, LEAVING THIS MORNING, (SEPERATELY) AND RETURNING TO LAGOS SATURDAY.

4. SAM NUJOMA AND JOSHUA NKOMO ARRIVED WITH THE ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT, (VGKP #
(A 68 NOTAL) AFTER ARRIVAL CEREMONIES FOR KAUNDA, WHO WAS MET BY HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO, CHIEF OF STAFF BRIGADIER YAR-ADUA, POLICE INSPECTOR GENERAL M.D. YUSUFU, GARBA AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE RULING SMC, NUJOMA AND NKOMO MET WITH PRESS. THE SWAPO LEADER, WHO WAS LAST HERE IN NOVEMBER, SAID HE WAS IN LAGOS TO PARTICIPATE IN FESTAC AND WOULD REMAIN ONE WEEK. NKOMO, WHO LEFT HERE ONLY LAST SUNDAY (LAGOS 259 NOTAL), WAS MORE TALKATIVE. HE TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HE AND "OTHER NATIONALIST LEADERS" WOULD BE MEETING WITH IVOR RICHARDS IN MAPUTO THIS COMING SUNDAY, CONFIDENTIAL

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JANUARY 16. NKOMO SAID HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO ACCRA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE NATIONAL REDEMPTION COUNCIL BEFORE FLYING TO MOZAMBIQUE.

5. COMMENT: BOTH KAUNDA AND K NKOMO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SEEK TO OBTAIN FMG SUPPORT FOR LAST WEEKEND'S FRONTLINE DECISION TO GIVE EXCLUSIVE BACKING TO PATRIOTIC FRONT. SUCH COMMITMENT, IF MADE, WOULD BE STRONG CARD FOR NKOMO TO PLAY IN MAPUTO AGAINST MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE.
EASUM

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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